

ENDORSED BY MR. PLATT

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HIS ANTI-MACHINE VIEWS

THE EX-SENATOR COMES OUT IN FAVOR  
OF THE NEW ORGANIZATION.

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HIS REASONS FOR TAKING SIDES WITH THE

MOVEMENT HEADED BY JOHN E. MILHOLLAND  
—HIS OBJECTIONS TO THE PLAN OF  
THE COMMITTEE OF THIRTY.

An interview in regard to the Republican organization movement was given yesterday by ex-Senator Thomas C. Platt. It was the first that the Senator has given on the subject. The interview, which is published herewith in full, is interesting in many things, but its chief feature, of course, rests in the emphatic indorsement given by Mr. Platt to the Anti-Machine movement. Involving, as such an indorsement practically does, a recognition of the new party by the State Committee—for every one understands that Mr. Platt's friends control that body by an overwhelming majority—the significance of his statements is at once apparent. Of course, Mr. Platt does not pretend to speak for the State Committee, although he is one of its advisory members. But every addition knows that it is

Mr. Platt's position regarding the Anti-Machine movement has not been hastily taken. At first he had grave doubts as to the success of the undertaking. The opposition was strong, the obstacles in the way were serious. He refused to commit himself in its favor until he was sure that it represented the most promising effort of the great rank and file of the party.

Now, however, he feels that proper recognition is a matter of right and good politics.

**YOUNG BLOOD WILL TELL.**

In discussing the subject, the ex-Senator indulges lightly in personalities. The references to this kind that he makes are only those called forth by the requirements of the discussion. He dwells with especial emphasis upon the necessity of infusing young blood into the party, and making Republicanism more than a name in the lower districts, the strongholds of Democracy. In the light of what young men are doing in politics all over the country, and particularly in view of Mr. Quigg's brilliant victory in the XIVth Congress District, Mr. Platt argues, by inference, that this is not a good time to try to turn down ambitious young Republicans.

There is nothing in Mr. Platt's interview that indicates any hasty expression on his part. Everything he says is said with deliberation, and

after full and careful thought on the subject. It represents his thorough convictions, not the impressions of the moment.

**THE INTERVIEW.**

**A NEW ORGANIZATION NEEDED.**

"In the first place," said Senator Platt, "I am warmly in favor of a new organization in New York City. It is not necessary to believe that

the old organization was entirely bad to find a reason why a new one should be called into existence. It is enough that public opinion requires a new one. The belief is so general that

the old machine cannot be depended upon to do good and efficient work to get out the Republic can vote, to make a full use of our singular opportunity the coming fall, as to leave no chance of denial anywhere that a new organization is imperatively required. The County Committee has recognized this fact by gracefully furnishing its political coffin and cheerfully going off

"Two parties have sprung up to undertake the work of organization. One of them is led by Colonel George Bliss, who is the real author of the plan recommended by the Committee of

Thirty, the other by John E. Milholland. In behalf of his party Colonel Bliss claims it has the authority of the old County Committee; in behalf of his party Mr. Milholland claims it has the authority of public sentiment. There is a question in my mind whether an authority derived from a body which practically confesses

to its own inillness to live in or any particular value. The County Committee has said, 'We are somewhat bad and totally inefficient, and we empower Colonel Bliss and his friends to get up something better in our stead.' It does not seem to me that Republicans are called upon to respect Colonel Bliss's credentials. If we want to

get rid of the old machine because it is partly bad and entirely inefficient, we are certainly justified in looking with some suspicion upon the persons to whom it issues a commission. It says to Colonel Bliss, 'Reposing full faith and confidence in you, we authorize you to reform'

the machine,' but, unfortunately, nobody seems to repose any trust and confidence in it, or the machine would not need reformation.

A QUESTION OF MERIT.

"The Republican party will look, therefore, at

Colonel Bliss's movement just as it will look on Mr. Milholland's, each on its own merits. Supporting Colonel Bliss are a number of well-known men, who will be recognized as Republi-

is fair to say that many of them spend a great part of their time in criticising those of us whose interest in the party is such that we give our days and nights, in season and out of season, during campaigns and after campaigns, to the effort to build up the party and to make it flourish on Election Day. I respect those

gentlemen and their opinions, but if they had

spent more time in the practical work of the party I do not think they would have proposed the plan of organization which with much self-complacency they are now urging upon us. They have undertaken to abolish leadership. They

might as well try to abolish daylight. Leadership is as necessary in a political movement as in any other, and whatever the plan of movement there will be leaders in whom the quality of leadership resides. A plan which tries to

obstruct the path of honorable ambition is a foolish plan.

"It is not a new scheme of organization the Republican party wants, but new people in the organization. It wants new blood, a fresh supply of earnest, resolute, active, ambitious young men, men who are not dismayed by heavy tasks, who will bring new forces into cam-

campaigns, who will invent new methods of reaching the voters, who with the ardent spirit of

young will go out among the people and work for victory, as did Lemuel E. Quigg recently in the XIVth Congress District, regardless of the obstacles in their path. I do not think that Colonel Bliss's plan is calculated to result in this infusion of new life into the party; nor do

I think that he and the friends he has around him are just the kind of leaders likely to attract gallant and ambitious young men into the active work of the party.

**THE ELECTION DISTRICT PLAN.**

"The election district plan of organization is, in my judgment, unworkable. It is not adapted to New-York, particularly below Fourteenth-st. It involves an expense that would be a heavy strain on the party. I am, however, that earnest

of the Committee of Thirty estimate it at not less than \$150,000 a year. I have great doubt about the ability of the party in New-York to raise even one-third of that sum; and I feel

confident that no such sum could be raised from year to year. Besides this, I think the money would be to a very large extent wasted.

even if it were found possible to raise it. To support 1,187 election district headquarters is unnecessary, in the first place, and impossible in the second. The practical result of an effort to do this is that these headquarters

to do so would be that these headquarters would be deserted most of the time, for there are not enough people in many election dis-